

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims as follows:

1-47 (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A color imaging device comprising:

an imager to generate an image with color decomposition, the imager producing raw image data as a result of generating the image;

a decomposing unit to decompose the raw image data into a plurality of plane data such that each plane data includes pixel information of the same color;

a compression and encoding unit to compress the plane data of each color divided by the decomposing unit with an irreversible compression process;

a controller to control a compression ratio of the irreversible compression process conducted by the compression and encoding unit for the plane data of each color independently with each other; and

an information acquisition unit to acquire an evaluation value of white-balance from the raw data,

wherein the controller determines whether a proportion of a color component is large or small based on the evaluation value of white-balance acquired by the information acquisition unit, the controller further setting the compression ratio of the color plane to be higher than a standard compression ratio for the color component of which proportion has been determined to be small.

49. (Cancelled) The color imaging device as claimed in claim 48, wherein the controller determines whether a proportion of a color component is large or small based on the evaluation value of white-balance acquired by the information acquisition unit, the controller further setting the compression ratio of the color plane according to the result of the determination.

50. (Currently Amended) A color imaging process comprising:  
generating an image with color decomposition, including producing raw image data as a result of generating the image;  
decomposing the raw image data into a plurality of plane data such that each plane data includes pixel information of the same color;  
compressing the plane data of each color with an irreversible compression process;  
controlling a compression ratio of the irreversible compression process for the plane data of each color independently with each other; and  
acquiring an evaluation value of white-balance from the raw data,  
wherein controlling the compression ratio of the irreversible compression process comprises:  
determining whether a proportion of a color component is large or small based on the evaluation value of white-balance, and  
setting the compression ratio of the color plane to be higher than a standard compression ratio for the color component of which proportion has been determined to be small.

51. (Cancelled) The color imaging process as claimed in claim 50, wherein controlling the compression ratio of the irreversible compression process comprises:

determining whether a proportion of a color component is large or small based on the evaluation value of white-balance, and

setting the compression ratio of the color plane according to the result of the determination.